



For Immediate Release

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**Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg
Comments on Office of Management and Budget's Deficit Announcement**

“The expected increase in the deficit is to some degree understandable due to the extraordinary expenses incurred as a result of the Gulf Coast hurricanes. But it is still unacceptable. As a government, we must continue to try to control the rate of growth of spending, especially in the entitlement accounts. We also must face the fact that with the coming retirement of the Baby Boom generation, the cost of retirement benefits will become unsustainable if we also wish to pass on to our children the same opportunities that we have had.

“The first place to start is by passing the Deficit Reduction Act - which saves \$40 billion over five years - now pending before the House. We then need to get serious about reforming Medicare and controlling the rate of growth of other entitlements. Hopefully the Congress and the White House will be up to this task in this budget cycle.”